

BLACK HISTORY



1

Eugene Jacques Bullard

In August of 1917 Eugene Jacques Bullard, an American volunteer in the French army, became the first black military pilot in history and the only black pilot in World War I.

The museum's exhibit features several of Bullard's medals and personal pins.

- *Early Years Gallery*

2

Tuskegee Airmen

An experiment in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II showed that given equal opportunity and training, blacks could fly in, command and support combat units as well as anyone. The USAAF's black fliers, the so-called "Tuskegee Airmen," served with distinction in combat and directly contributed to the eventual integration of the U.S. armed services.

- *Air Power Gallery*

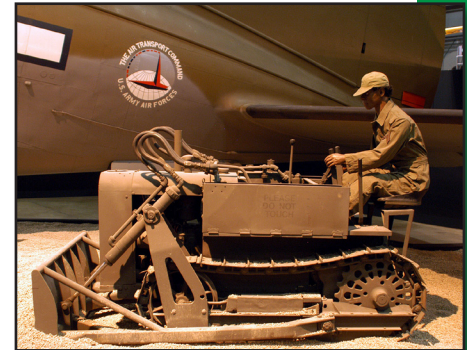


3

Engineer Aviation Battalions

Many African-Americans served in support units during World War II, and the Engineer Aviation Battalions, with their skilled engineers and construction workers, were one of the more significant support units. The self-contained EAB became the core of aviation engineering efforts during the war.

- *Air Power Gallery*



4

Integration of the Air Force

In April 1948 Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Carl Spaatz announced that the Air Force would desegregate to improve its combat effectiveness, and in May 1949 the Air Force published regulations dismantling segregation. Men and women joining the Air Force from then on were assigned according to their ability and not race.

- *Air Power Gallery*

